

Capsule Summary

Survey Number # AA 819

Davis House
3214 Langston Avenue
Highland Beach, Maryland

c. 1897

Private

The Davis House is a colonial style, two storey cottage in Highland Beach, Maryland. The entire resort community was conceived to be a summer retreat for prominent black Americans in the later part of the nineteenth century. Building activity in the town took place within a ten year period which established an organizing design theme within the community. The colonial theme is one of the architectural elements of this town and the Davis house is one of the earliest examples of this form.

The existence of black town in a rural environment which exhibits such a high level of architectural quality is rare. The Davis house contributes to the overall design of the town with respect to its proximity to other houses within the community and the socio-spatial elements of planning in a small black town.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

AA 819

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Davis House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

3214 Langston Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Highland Beach

VICINITY OF

Annapolis 1

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

Anne Arundel

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Davis Jr, Arthur P.
Davis, Delores J.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

7502 Eastern Ave. NW

CITY, TOWN

Washington DC

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

20012

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE, Index # 2 411 03108400
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. R 57 15 0012

Liber #: 2783

Folio #: 324

STREET & NUMBER

Anne Arundel County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis, MD

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

AA-819

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

3214 Langston

This cottage is a colonial, 2 x 2 bay house with an extended, enclosed porch. It retains into clapboard siding and trim and the double hung 4 over 4 light windows are similar in pattern to other windows in the area. The aluminum screened porch and the gutters are new, but there might have been are original porch on the site.

The Davis house is located in the Highland Beach Community in the block bordered by Bay Avenue in the north, Langston Avenue towards the east, Douglass Avenue in the south and Bruce Avenue towards the west. The east elevation is the "front" of the house and is oriented towards the Chesapeake Bay. The topography is comparatively high on this lot although the sloping pattern in this community is generally towards the Chesapeake Bay and the Black Walnut Creek on the north and Oystic Creek towards the southern perimeter. Vegetation is dense and large trees of Ash, Poplar, Oak and Maple substantially complement the site.

The gabled roof colonial style cottage is essentially a rectangular plan with a shed extension on the western elevation. The low pier foundation is constructed of smooth stone masonry. On the eastern elevation, the three bay wide facade is complemented with an enclosed ten bay porch. The porch is screened with wooden supports. The porch extends around the house towards the north elevation and wraps around this side view asymmetrically. The entrance to the porch is protected by an aluminum door with a single pane window and scalloped trim. The porch is covered with a shed roof which is supported by corner posts. On the second storey of the east elevation, two sash type windows with six over six lights are centered on the wall. The finish on this view is constructed of shingle siding which is trimmed with painted vertical boards.

The south elevation is finished with weatherboard siding. The only other architectural features on this facade are three symmetrically placed windows - two on the first storey and one set of twin window treatments on the second storey.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1897 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

see "Highland Beach Settlement"

The Davis House is one of the landmark houses in this community. It was constructed in 1897 although the exact date can not be verified. It is considered to be an example of vernacular architecture in this community and was occupied by contemporaries of Frederick Douglass.

The Highland Beach Settlement is a private resort/summer community which was planned for and designed by prominent people in African-American history. It is a surviving example of town planning and may be one of the oldest extant communities of this quality in the mid-atlantic region. All of the properties in Highland Beach were originally owned by Charles R. Douglass in 1894. The Davis' purchased the property in the late 1970s from the descendants of original settlers in the community.

The Davis cottage is another of the several unique examples of black town planning that are located in this community. Highland Beach is a planned community and the unself conscious design quality of the individual structures in this scheme are important elements, worthy of preservation. This house in particular, articulates the influence of colonial design elements on the builders of this community. It therefore contributes to the functional development of the town and the socio-spatial conception of design by blacks in an era of segregation and racial hostility.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

AA-819

see "Highland Beach Settlement"

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 3 Block 4, Highland Beach

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Barbara C. Turner

ORGANIZATION

Center for Built Environment Research

April 1982

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Morgan State University

301-444-3225

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore, MD

21039

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

GW 6 35
10/27/19

Charles R. Douglass (Wife Laura)

To

Eula Ross Grey

To

GTC1572 347
6/20/62

C. Grey Hurley, Grandville W. & Arthur P. Davis
Clarice W. Davis

To

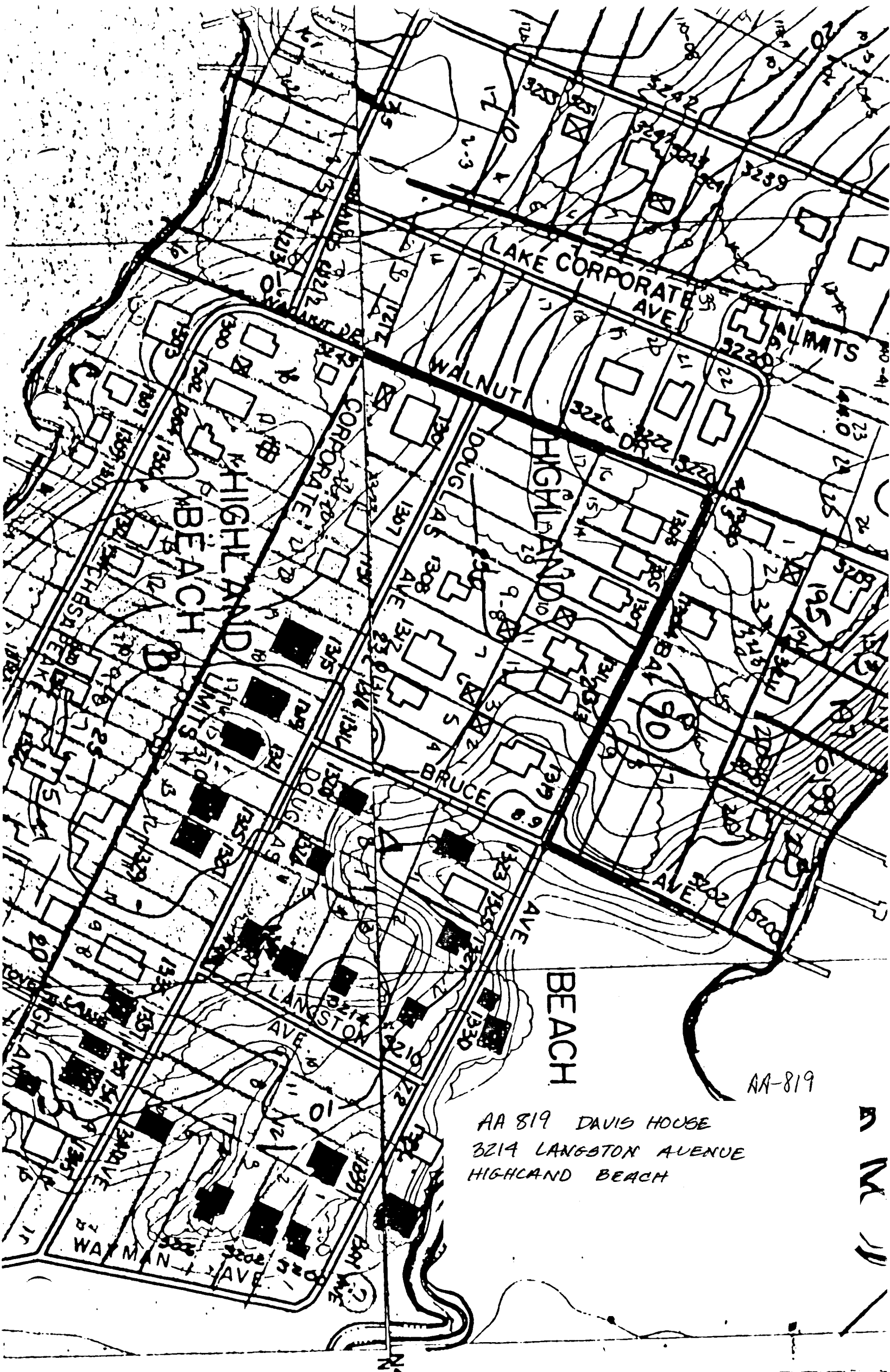
L 2783 324
8/19/75

Arthur P. Davis Sr. & Clarice W.

To

2783 - 324

Arthur P. Davis Jr. (Wife Delores L.)



BEACH

AA-819

AA 819 DAVIS HOUSE
3214 LANGSTON AVENUE
HIGHLAND BEACH



AA 819 Davis House
3214 Langston Avenue
Highland Beach, Maryland
General View
Fern Eisner, Photographer
March, 1983